



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 - www.cpuc.ca.gov

Local Government Newsletter No. 06 Sep. 2004

This newsletter is intended to inform you about recent actions undertaken and issues pending before the CPUC that may affect your community.

Statewide Interest

New! Elected officials, the Commission has taken more steps towards ensuring sufficient energy for Californians. As part of the **Energy Action Plan**, the Commission recognizes that saving energy through energy efficiency measures is an essential part of securing electricity and has set goals for the five largest Commission-regulated utilities in the state. More information:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/NEWS_RELEASE/40087.htm. More information about energy efficiency appliances for homes and businesses is available on the Energy Commission's website:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov>. Likewise to ensure California does not face a natural gas shortage in the future, the Commission has directed gas utilities to take measures such as securing intrastate and interstate pipeline capacity and access to imported supplies such as LNG. More information:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/NEWS_RELEASE/39548.htm.

New! All over the state, **Southern California Water Company rate increase requests**. On August 31, the utility filed requests to increase rates in the following districts: Arden-Cordova, Bay Point, Clearlake, Los Osos, Ojai, Santa Maria, and Simi Valley. A memo will be issued outlining the scope of the proceeding and notices will be provided once hearings are scheduled (proceeding A.04-08-042). Also, **California Water Service** has submitted applications to increase rates in the following districts: Chico, East Los Angeles, Livermore, Los Altos-Suburban, Mid Peninsula, Salinas, Stockton, and Visalia.

New! Elected Officials may want to know that now that the Governor has signed **Senate Bill 1278** which restored funds for the **California Teleconnect Fund** for fiscal year 2004-2005, the CPUC has moved swiftly to implement it. The CPUC has sent a letter to telecommunications companies advising them to begin offering applicable discounted rates and charges to qualifying organizations retroactively to July 1, 2004, and to notify affected customers of this action.

Southern California Interest

Reminder! On October 18, beginning at 9 a.m., the Commission will conduct a meeting on utility diversity programs. The program includes utility purchasing, employment and other areas related to diversity. Representatives from industry, academia, labor, media, the State Legislature, community-based organizations, and utility executives and managers are expected to attend. Dr. Harry Pachon of the Tomas Rivera Institute at the University of Southern California will be a keynote speaker. **Ronald Reagan State Building, 300 South Spring St., Los Angeles**. Here's a link to the press release: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/NEWS_RELEASE/40220.htm. More information about the program: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/jobs_consultant/consultants/wmbe/index.htm

New! Los Angeles elected officials may want to participate in **San Gabriel Water Company's** request to increase rates in its Los Angeles district by 29% next year, 3% in 2006 and 3% in 2007. A

memo will be issued outlining the proceeding schedule and will be posted on the website under the proceeding (proceeding A.04-09-005). Here's a link to the proceeding:
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/proceedings/A0409005.htm>

Los Angeles' South Bay and Westside 310 area code update. A proposed decision and an alternate proposal were issued about implementing the 310 area code split. The proposed decision directs that implementation begin May 28, 2005; the alternate proposal requires no implementation at this time. The previously approved plan splits the current area code in two around Imperial Highway and the southern part will receive the new, 424, area code. **Update! Commissioner Susan Kennedy will hold an All-Party Meeting to discuss the issue on Tuesday October 5. See the Community Calendar for meeting details. The Commission may consider the proposal and the alternate at its October 7 Commission meeting.** Here's a link to the proposed decision:

http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/COMMENT_DECISION/39262.htm. Here's the alternate:
http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/COMMENT_DECISION/39323.htm.

Inland Empire, the 909-951 area code split. **Reminder! Callers to Western Riverside County will have to start using the 951 area code beginning Saturday, October 30, 2004, or the call will not go through.** The 909-951 area code split began last July with a "permissive" phase where a call would still go through to numbers in Western Riverside whether or not the new area code was used. That phase ends October 29. If you have not done so, now is the time to program all your autodialing equipment to use the 951 area code. Businesses and residents in the new 951 area code must program their equipment to include the 909 area code where appropriate (proceeding R.95-04-043). More information including a map and a list of prefixes that will change:
ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/areacodes/909_951_AreaCodeSplitHandout.pdf

Long Beach and other Los Angeles South Bay communities interested in Sound Energy Solutions' proposal to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility in Long Beach. **Update! A memo outlining the scope and schedule of the proceeding has been issued.** The scope relates to the safety of the proposed project, environmental impacts occurring as a result of project construction and operation, and the effects of the facility on California energy markets. Public Participation Hearings, which are designed for the public to comment or ask questions will be held at the Long Beach Main Library on Pacific Avenue on March 10 from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 pm, and at the Wilmington Senior Citizen Center on Eubank on March 11 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. (proceeding I.04-04-024). Here's a link to the scoping memo: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/RULINGS/39776.htm>.

Northern California Interest

Larkfield and Sacramento elected officials and customers of California American Water Company may want to comment on the water company's request to raise rates in those areas. Public hearings were held in Santa Rosa and Rancho Cordova to listen to comments about the company's request to increase rates to cover operating costs and to combine districts to spread those costs among more customers. Local officials and customers may still comment by writing or e-mailing the Public Advisor at: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov. Refer to proceeding A.04-04-040 for Sacramento and A.04-04-041 for Larkfield.

Monterey and Felton businesses and residents. California American Water Company has asked to consolidate these two districts. The water company wants to combine these two districts to spread those costs among more customers. **Update! Public Participation Hearings will be held in Monterey on Dec. 6 and in Felton on Dec. 7 – notices will be sent to customers. Evidentiary Hearings will begin on Jan. 4 in San Francisco** (proceeding A.04-08-012).

Upcoming Commission business meetings – Thu. October 7, Thu. October 28, Fri. November 19

Most items discussed at the meetings are distributed publicly 30 days in advance of the respective meeting. Read, print and download decisions that are issued through our “Official Documents” page, selecting “Currently Open for Comment.” Here’s the link to the official documents page: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/static/official+docs/index.htm>. The Agenda for a business meeting is posted on the website 10 days before a meeting and at the meeting you may comment on most items on the agenda. Contact the Public Advisor for specifics. Here’s a link to the website. <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov>.

October Community Calendar –

Here is a list of workshops and public meetings, which your community may want to follow or participate in. Since items could be added or removed daily, you may want to access our **daily calendar** for complete information. Also you can get on the “Information Only” list for any of our proceedings and be notified of meetings, ruling and decisions on the proceedings you select. Also if you have any questions, contact our **Public Advisor’s Office**.

Tue, Oct 5, 2 – 4 p.m.
All-Party Meeting

There will be an All-Party Meeting with Commissioner Susan Kennedy and her advisor, Tim Sullivan to discuss the 310 area code items on the Commission’s October 7 Business meeting (items 48 and 48a). RSVP by close of business Monday, October 4 to Vana White 415-703-3700 or vfw@cpuc.ca.gov.
Commission Headquarters, 505 Van Ness Ave, Hearing Room A, San Francisco

Mon., Oct 18 9 a.m.
Public Hearing

Commission will hold a meeting regarding diversity in utility procurement practices at the **Ronald Regan State Building, 300 South Spring St. Los Angeles**

A word about our website: CPUC posts its public documents on its website. You can access them by searching through the [Official Documents](#) page (link on the left) or by using the search engine linked on the right. If you want information about participating in formal proceedings, the [Public Advisor’s](#) page can help you (link under “quick hits”). The [home page](#) lists information in the CPUC spotlight and it provides a link to special announcements on other important issues. A [Consumer Information Center](#) (link on the left) is loaded with information about utility programs the commission has authorized. The [News Room](#) (link on left) provides press releases and other information to the media. Our [industry divisions](#) have posted numerous industry-related decisions, presentations, reports and other information on their pages (see Regulated Areas selection on the left).

If you have problems finding the documents you need, call or e-mail us and we’ll help you.

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If you have questions about anything in this newsletter, please e-mail Kyle DeVine at kyl@cpuc.ca.gov. If you wish to participate in a CPUC proceeding, have questions about a proceeding, want to automatically receive CPUC-issued documents, or want to comment at a Commission meeting, our Public Advisor’s Office is here to help. Contact us at:

San Francisco Office: 866-849-8390, or public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

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